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Prevention of armed conflict

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Seventy-first year

Letter dated 1 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement issued on 31 March 2016 by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the attempt by the United States to shift the blame for the escalated tension on the Korean Peninsula on to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

16-05335 (E) 180416

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Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, March 31 (KCNA) -- A spokesperson for the DPRK Foreign Ministry released a statement hitting out at the U.S. for its foolish attempt to shift the blame for the escalated tension on the Korean peninsula on to the DPRK on 31 March 2016.

The U.S. is describing the just self-defensive countermeasures taken by the DPRK to cope with the former's frantic war moves and its sanctions and racket to stifle the latter as a "provocation" and "threat" and creating impression that the latter was to blame for the above-said tension. This is profound confusing of right and wrong.

The statement noted that the prevailing grave situation was entirely attributable to the U.S. It went on:

The U.S. nuclear threat and blackmail are neither temporary ones started recently nor an abstract conception but a potential threat it has posed to the DPRK every day for the past several decades after adopting the pre-emptive nuclear attack on it as a policy.

The U.S. attempted to mount a nuclear attack on the DPRK as early as in the 1950s and the Bush administration officially listed the DPRK, which was a non-nuclear state, as part of "the axis of evil" and target of pre-emptive nuclear attack early in the 21st century.

The Obama administration excluded the DPRK from the list of the "nuclear non-use" in April of 2010, fully revealing its scenario for mounting a pre-emptive attack on the DPRK. The U.S. is reiterating it still now.

It has staged large-scale joint military drills every year and made practical preparations for a nuclear attack on the DPRK by mobilizing various type nuclear war hardware.

The on-going Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 16 joint military exercises, in particular, are unprecedented in their scale and provocative nature.

While threatening the DPRK with nukes, the U.S. is resorting to an extreme political and economic pressure on the former.

Lording it over the UN and the international community, the U.S. is recklessly working to stifle a sovereign state at any cost with every conceivable illegal and brigandish means and methods employed. This can never be tolerated.

Now that it is as clear as noonday the U.S. military threats and hostile acts against the DPRK are designed to decapitate the supreme leadership and bring down the "social system" of the DPRK, it is left with no option but to take actions to protect the dignity of its supreme leadership, sovereignty and right to existence.

The U.S. nuclear threat and blackmail, joint military exercises, sanctions and other moves to stifle the DPRK are the root cause of pushing the situation on the peninsula to the brink of a clash of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. seeks to shift the blame for the escalating tension on to the DPRK by triggering off its resistance through diverse pressure but it brings into bolder relief the true colours of the former as an aggressor and provocateur.

If the U.S. tries to infringe upon the supreme interests and sovereignty of the DPRK even a bit, the latter will mete out a prompt merciless punishment to it with all means including nuclear force involved and defuse the threats to its sovereignty and regional peace and security, declares the statement. -0-

16-05335

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 11
Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS

On the fast track to ending the AIDS epidemic

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction
Robust progress provides a solid foundation for the fast track

1. The global commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic, as set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, represents an unparalleled opportunity to end one of the most devastating modern-day health challenges and also to build on the momentum of the AIDS response in order to accelerate results across the sustainable development agenda.

2. Even when confronted with the vast scale of the global AIDS epidemic, the response to HIV has never lost sight of the value and experience of each individual affected, their hopes and frustrations and their right to health and well-being. I have had the privilege of spending time with people engaged in the AIDS response, including people living with HIV. I have learned about their difficulties in getting access to the antiretroviral medicines that keep them alive and about the fear and stigma they live with each day. Many have also expressed their unwavering belief that we can end this epidemic. Their stories of courage and hope embody the resolve of all those involved in the AIDS response. Today, we can appreciate the remarkable progress we have made together, but also how far we have to go to ensure that no one is left behind.

3. The AIDS response has delivered more than results. It has delivered the aspiration and the practical foundation, including the medical advancements, interventions and partnerships, to end the epidemic by 2030. All that truly remains, the missing link that will determine whether fast-track targets will be met or missed, is the political commitment to implement our proven tools adequately and equitably.

4. The AIDS response engages State and non-state actors, works across sectors and tackles social drivers and human rights abuses. I am proud to see investments in

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the AIDS response do so much to drive the development of health systems, social protection and community resilience. I believe that the approaches and mechanisms pioneered by the AIDS response can serve to overcome systemic challenges that give rise to repeated disease outbreaks and new epidemics of chronic diseases, while building towards equitable universal health coverage.

5. Yet AIDS is far from over. We cannot afford to lose in the AIDS response. The next five years present a narrow window of opportunity to radically change the trajectory of the epidemic. Despite remarkable progress, if we accept the status quo unchanged, the epidemic will rebound in several low- and middle-income countries. More people will acquire HIV and die from AIDS-related illness in 2030 than in 2015. Treatment costs will rise sharply. Failure to control the AIDS epidemic will undermine efforts to end tuberculosis and reduce rates of maternal and child mortality, hepatitis C and cervical cancer. Our tremendous investment, and the world's most inspiring movement for the right to health, will have been in vain.

6. But that bleak future need not be ours. Today, ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 is within our reach, if we fast-track the response by embracing ambitious targets for 2020 and increasing and front-loading investments. We must reinforce rights-based approaches, including those that foster gender equality and empower women. Access to services must be ensured for the people most affected, marginalized and discriminated against, including people living with HIV; young women and their sexual partners in sub-Saharan Africa; children and adolescents everywhere; gay men and other men who have sex with men; sex workers and their clients; people who inject drugs; transgender people; people in prison; people with disabilities; migrants; and refugees.

7. Ending AIDS requires HIV and other health and social needs to be met throughout a lifetime, including when a person is at risk of acquiring HIV, when a person requires lifetime access to treatment and when an individual, family or community may have to care for orphans and people living with HIV. Ending AIDS demands focusing resources in the countries, districts, subdistricts and city boroughs most affected and tailoring services to populations at risk and communities living in fragile contexts. It requires people-centred innovation, from transforming and reinforcing community- and facility-based service delivery to developing more effective, affordable health products, including a vaccine and cure.

8. Punitive and discriminatory laws need to change. Stigma and discrimination and gender-based violence must finally be ended. Social and economic drivers of health, such as food and nutrition security, housing, education, employment and economic empowerment, must be addressed. Doing so will demand new kinds of partnership that capitalize on the contributions of civil society, Governments, regional political institutions, international organizations, academia, faith-based organizations and the private sector.

9. Through a fast-track, multisectoral response to AIDS, and through making more strategic use of the machinery built by the response, considerable contributions to a range of Sustainable Development Goals (see General Assembly resolution 70/1) will be made, including on poverty elimination, food and nutrition security, health, gender equality, decent work, reducing inequalities, cities, justice and inclusive institutions and partnership. With that aim in mind, I call on all partners to work together more coherently across political, cultural, religious and institutional divides. I urge the international community to support the United

Nations in becoming fit to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by reinforcing and expanding on the unique multisector, multi-actor approach of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), as reaffirmed by the Economic and Social Council in 2015.[1]

10. The year 2015 marked the target year of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly in 2011, as well as that of the Millennium Development Goals. The present report provides a review of the 10 targets of the Political Declaration and, in the context of several Sustainable Development Goals, looks forward, highlighting areas of urgency and opportunity.

11. The high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, to be held in June 2016 by the General Assembly (see resolution 70/228) is a pivotal occasion to rally global commitment to the fast-track targets and core actions for ending AIDS by 2030, as outlined in the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy, "On the Fast-Track to end AIDS". It provides the opportunity to build on the lessons learned from the AIDS response and to work with the people, institutions and networks that sustain it, to truly advance a paradigm shift to the integrated development approach envisioned in the Sustainable Development Goals. Together we can achieve success, measured by the assurance of people's health, human rights, dignity and ability to thrive in the long term.

II. We must not let up: inspiring progress and addressing shortfalls in implementation of the Political Declaration of 2011

12. The Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS accelerated action worldwide by establishing 10 ambitious targets for 2015. To monitor progress, countries embraced a stronger accountability framework, supported by UNAIDS. That Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting system remains among the most innovative international development monitoring exercises in its inclusion of civil society assessments.

13. A review of progress reveals extraordinary achievements and tough challenges, as well as lessons learned for wider development efforts (a summary for each target is contained in table 1 of the annex). The achievement of reaching 15 million people living with HIV with antiretroviral therapy nine months before the deadline of December 2015 marks a major global victory (see figure I). The rapid scale-up in life-saving treatment has contributed to reducing AIDS-related deaths by 42 per cent since 2004 and played a major role in sharply increasing life expectancy in countries with a high HIV burden.[2] The commitment of Governments, civil society organizations, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNAIDS and so many others has transformed an epidemic of despair and death into a response of health, hope and dignity.

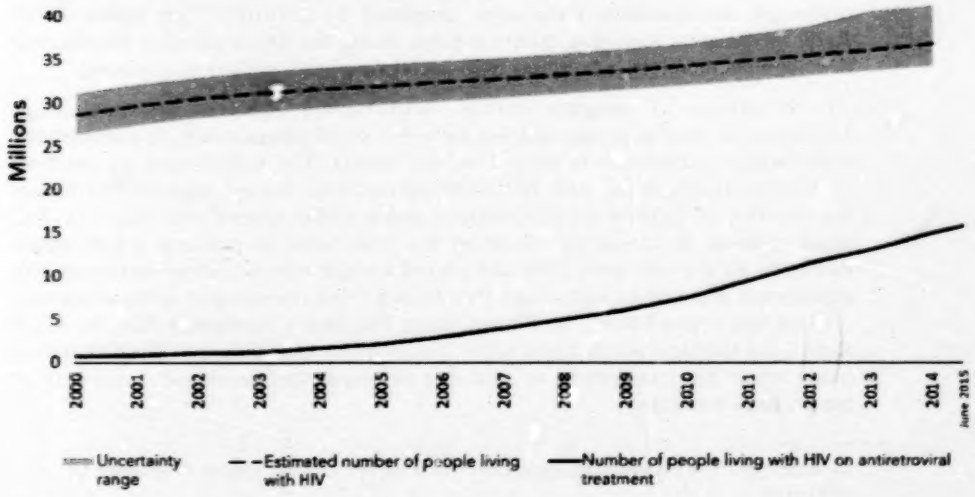
[1] Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/2 on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

[2] UNAIDS, *How AIDS changed everything: MDG 6: 15 years, 15 lessons of hope from the AIDS response* (Geneva, July 2015), available from www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/MDG6Report_en.pdf. Also note that the latest figures from Public Health England estimate that 75 per cent of all people living with HIV (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) were treated and 70 per cent had an undetectable viral load in 2014 in the United Kingdom.

Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS of 2011: 10 targets

- Reduce sexual transmission of HIV by 50 per cent by 2015
- Reduce transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent by 2015
- Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2015 and substantially reduce AIDS-related maternal deaths
- Reach 15 million people living with HIV with lifesaving antiretroviral treatment by 2015
- Close the global AIDS resource gap by 2015 and reach annual global investment of $22 billion to $24 billion in low- and middle-income countries
- Eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence and increase the capacity of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV
- Eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV through promotion of laws and policies that ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Eliminate HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence
- Eliminate parallel systems for HIV-related services to strengthen integration of the AIDS response in global health and development efforts, as well as to strengthen social protection systems
- Reduce tuberculosis deaths in people living with HIV by 50 per cent by 2015

Figure I
Coverage of antiretroviral therapy among people living with HIV

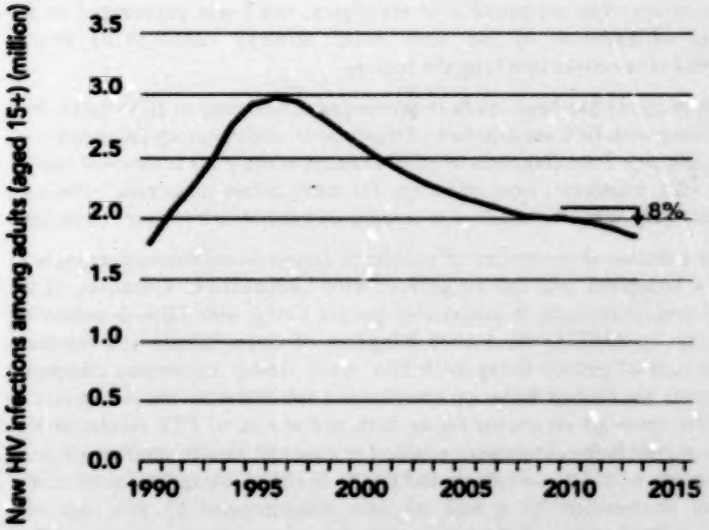


14. The most significant gains in reversing the epidemic have been among infants. *Launched at the General* Assembly high-level meeting on HIV and AIDS, held in 2011, the *Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among*

Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive has guided unprecedented success. In just four years, new paediatric infections have been halved in the countries with 90 per cent of global new HIV infections in children. In 2014, fewer than 500 children in the Caribbean and fewer than 2,000 children across Latin America were newly infected with HIV. Globally, an estimated 85 countries are within reach of elimination, with fewer than 50 new infections among children each year. The number of women aged 15-49 dying from AIDS-related causes has declined by 35 per cent since 2010.

15. Substantial gains were made worldwide in reducing the number of adults newly infected with HIV in the 10 years after the turn of the millennium. Yet progress is inadequate and slowing in many places, while new infections are rising in some areas. From 2010 to 2014, the annual number of young people and adults acquiring HIV fell by just 8 per cent (see figure II). Globally, the proportion of young people with accurate and comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission has stagnated over the past 15 years, while condom promotion and distribution remain insufficient to meet young people's needs in much of sub-Saharan Africa. Even as new prevention tools and approaches have emerged, prevention programmes have weakened in recent years owing to such factors as inadequate leadership, weak accountability and declining funding.

Figure II
New HIV infections among adults (aged 15+) from 1990 to 2014



16. Although 90 per cent of people newly infected with HIV live in just 35 countries, the HIV epidemic remains global, affecting every corner of the world and adding substantially to health burdens in many regions. Epidemic patterns, progress and challenges however vary considerably (see figure IV).

17. The AIDS epidemic continues to disproportionately affect sub-Saharan Africa, which is home to 26 million people living with HIV. In 2014, there were an

estimated 1.4 million new HIV infections, approximately 66 per cent of the global total. Adolescent girls and young women continue to experience elevated HIV risk and vulnerability. Of the 2.8 million young people aged 15-24 years living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa in 2014, 63 per cent were female.

18. The number of people newly infected in eastern Europe and central Asia rose by 30 per cent from 2000 to 2014, largely among people who inject drugs. Together with the Middle East and North Africa, where new infections are concentrated among sex workers, men who have sex with men and people who inject drugs, those are the only two regions where new HIV infections have increased since 2000.

19. Following a marked reduction from 2000 to 2010, the number of people acquiring HIV has also increased slightly in Asia and the Pacific in the past few years, while cities in North America and western Europe face resurging epidemics. Gay men and other men who have sex with men; transgender people; sex workers and their clients and people who inject drugs are at particularly high risk. In the United States, for example, if current trends persist, about one in two black men who have sex with men and one in four Latino men who have sex with men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetime.[3]

20. Twenty-two million people living with HIV are not accessing antiretroviral therapy. Among children, access is appallingly low, with coverage ranging from 54 per cent in Latin America to 15 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa in 2014. Treatment coverage among adults is lowest in the Middle East and North Africa at 14 per cent. Countries such as Algeria and Oman, however, demonstrate that high rates of coverage are possible in the region, and I was encouraged to see the high level of ambition of the Arab AIDS Strategy (2014-2020) despite humanitarian and other crises besetting the region.

21. Although progress has been made in promoting knowledge of HIV status, half of all people living with HIV are unaware of their status, underscoring the urgency of closing the testing gap. Late diagnosis of HIV infection is the most substantial barrier to scaling up HIV treatment. Low coverage for early infant diagnostic screening remains a particularly serious challenge to scaling up paediatric treatment coverage.

22. Further, a substantial proportion of people on antiretroviral therapy struggle to adhere to their treatment and fail to achieve viral suppression. Countries of all income levels face challenges in supporting people living with HIV in achieving viral suppression: in 2012, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 61 per cent of people living with HIV were virally suppressed compared with 30 per cent in the United States of America and sub-Saharan Africa.[2] Failure to fully address the needs of all people living with and at risk of HIV results in low percentages of people being diagnosed, retained in care and virally suppressed, with serious implications both for individuals and public health. Closing treatment access gaps is further constrained by a lack of data disaggregated by sex, age and population group. Weaknesses in the health and community systems, as exemplified by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, are predictors of future challenges.

23. The AIDS response has strengthened health systems in many countries and made substantial gains towards integrating HIV and broader health services.

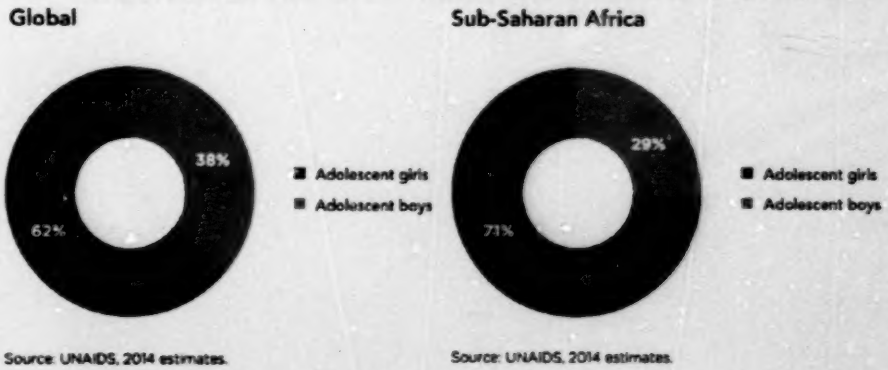
[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Half of black gay men and a quarter of Latino gay men projected to be diagnosed within their lifetime" (Atlanta, 2016), available from www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2016/croi-press-release-risk.html.

Growing numbers of countries report facility-level integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, as well as extensive integration of HIV counselling and testing services with those for non-communicable diseases. Countries report a high degree of integration between HIV and tuberculosis services. However, the number of people dying from HIV-associated tuberculosis has declined by just 18 per cent since 2010.[4]

24. Modest improvements have been made in reducing discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV and in shaping more enabling national laws and policies. I commend the recommendations outlined by the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, which have encouraged progress. The Inter-Parliamentary Union performs a critical function, as a legislator, a community leader and an overseer of government action, in supporting parliaments to unlock political obstacles to effective HIV responses. Yet the world remains far from eliminating punitive laws that perpetuate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

25. Gender norms that perpetuate inequality continue to prevail across many societies, increasing HIV risk among both women and men. Everywhere, women and girls face discrimination and violence and, in some countries, harmful practices such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. In 2014, 56 per cent of all new infections among those aged 15-24 and 62 per cent of new infections among those aged 15-19 were among girls and young women (see figure III). AIDS remains the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age in Africa. The Ministers and Representatives of Governments signatory to the Political Declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the fourth World Conference on Women at its fifty-ninth session in 2015 recognized that no country has fully achieved equality for women and girls, and pledged to strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030.

Figure III
Distribution by sex of the 220,000 new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15-19 in 2014



26. The adoption of Security Council resolution 1983 (2011) focused international political attention and action towards ending conflict-related sexual and gender-

[4] WHO, *Global Tuberculosis Report 2015* (Geneva, 2015).

based violence and empowering women to reduce their vulnerability to HIV. UNAIDS and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations are evaluating implementation of resolution 1983 (2011) and will report on progress and make recommendations later in 2016.

27. The promotion of laws, policies and programmes that address human rights and fundamental freedoms has generated momentum for the eradication of stigma, discrimination, violence and exclusion faced by marginalized populations and enabled access to HIV-related services, as well as wider progress towards more inclusive societies. Significant progress in eliminating HIV-related travel restrictions is a concrete result in the difficult task of breaking down structural barriers to equality.

28. Progress has been driven by the achievement of the target to make $22 billion to $24 billion available for the AIDS response for low- and middle-income countries by 2015. The principles of shared responsibility and global solidarity have guided resource mobilization efforts, as exemplified by the implementation by the African Union of its Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Africa. Critically, HIV programmes have become more efficient. From 2011 to 2014, HIV funding rose by 11 per cent, and the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy increased by 60 per cent.[5]

29. With 58 per cent of people living with HIV residing in middle-income countries, the recent decisions of many international partners to transition away from investing in middle-income countries after 2017 have major implications for ensuring continued service delivery and the survival of critical programmes. While Governments are increasing domestic funding to AIDS responses, that increase does not often include increased investment in advocacy, human rights or programmes focused on key populations. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, for example, national and local governments fund just 19 per cent of programmes focused on key populations, with the remaining 81 per cent funded by international partners.

30. Across the 10 targets, substantial progress provides powerful momentum for moving forward. Limited progress in several critical areas, however, threatens our ambition of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. A fragile five-year window of opportunity exists to address key challenges and fast-track the AIDS response.

[5] UNAIDS, "'15x15': a global target achieved" (Geneva, 2015).

Figure IV

The importance of location and population
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
LATIN AMERICA
NORTH AMERICA
WESTERN EUROPE
CARIBBEAN
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA
EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

III. On the fast track: working across the sustainable development agenda to ensure that no one is left behind

31. Successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will demand a rethinking of our approaches to development. As a set of universal and indivisible goals, the Goals give all stakeholders a mandate to collaborate. The AIDS response provides a pathfinder for multisectoral, people-centred action across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

32. Accelerating the response and addressing the holistic needs of people living with and at risk of HIV throughout their lifetime will require close coordination with efforts to eliminate poverty, provide access to social protection for all, improve food and nutrition security and access to quality education, ensure good health, reduce inequalities, achieve gender equality, ensure decent work and promote healthy cities and just and inclusive societies. Economic empowerment, social protection and comprehensive care and support help keep people living with and affected by HIV healthy, while integrated systems to deliver nutritional support and HIV services can enhance health outcomes. Completion of secondary education empowers young people, improves their socioeconomic status and reduces their risk of acquiring HIV. City-led AIDS responses strengthen health and social protection systems in reaching the most marginalized populations.

33. Quickening the pace of sustainable progress to end AIDS, poverty and inequality requires transformative shifts at community, district, country and regional levels. Such shifts include: enhancing an evidence- and rights-based, laser-like focus on locations, populations and interventions for greatest impact; investing in and enabling the leadership and engagement of civil society as a global public good; and front-loading a diverse bundle of investments to deliver historic health and development gains and generate significant economic returns. Although the pace needs to quicken in all countries, focused and accelerated efforts are especially needed in 35 countries that together account for more than 90 per cent of people acquiring HIV infection worldwide (see figure V). Countries that account for 90 per cent or more of regional epidemics are listed in table 2 of the annex.

34. The aim of the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy is to guide global fast-track action. Adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board in October 2015, the Strategy is organized around five Sustainable Development Goals that represent the most strategic areas in which to enhance collaboration for shared impact. Collaborative priority areas of work, as presented below, are at the heart of the fast-track approach.

Figure V
Thirty-five countries account for 90 per cent of new HIV infections globally, 2014

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all (Sustainable Development Goal 3)

35. Ensuring healthy lives, including those of people living with and affected by HIV, is essential to sustainable development. Achieving the 90-90-90 treatment target[6] for children, adolescents and adults is central to ending the epidemic and provides multiple entry points to encourage action on the human rights, gender and socioeconomic barriers people face in accessing HIV services. Success demands a global effort to close gaps in the treatment cascade, consistent with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2015 guidelines,[7] including through targeted testing strategies, adapting treatment services to reach different populations and settings, ensuring that people are offered treatment upon diagnosis, addressing socioeconomic barriers to care, providing support services to encourage adherence and regularly monitoring people on treatment.

36. Low treatment coverage among children must be rectified by ensuring that early infant diagnostic services are accessible to all children exposed to HIV, and by providing treatment to all children living with HIV. All services for HIV-exposed

[6] The 90-90-90 treatment target for 2020 is that 90 per cent of people living with HIV will know their status; 90 per cent of people who know their HIV status will have access to treatment; and 90 per cent of people on treatment will have suppressed viral loads.

[7] WHO, *Consolidated Guidelines on the Use of Antiretroviral Drugs for Treating and Preventing HIV Infection: What's New* (November 2015).

children need to be improved, including by expanding case-finding, adopting innovative systems to track and provide comprehensive services to mother-infant pairs through the continuum of care, increasing and improving adherence support for children and caregivers, and ensuring the availability of the most efficacious antiretroviral formulations suitable for children.

37. Scaling up treatment will require countries to streamline the treatment modality and to complement facility-based services with an array of non-facility based approaches, while reinforcing systems to provide chronic disease care management. Enabling efficient scale-up requires community-based HIV service delivery to be expanded from a global average of 5 per cent in 2013 up to 30 per cent in 2030. Intensified efforts to implement task-shifting in clinical settings will be essential to maximize efficiency gains and to respond to shortages of human resources for health.

38. The international community must urgently strengthen and sustain efforts to ensure that all children can live free of HIV and that their mothers are alive and well, with a focus on underperforming locations and on women at risk of being left behind. Integrating services for the elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission into antenatal and postnatal care and into family planning services, will make services routinely available, while women's groups that provide psychosocial support have been shown to measurably reduce HIV-related mortality. Efforts to achieve dual elimination of HIV and congenital syphilis among children by integrating consent-based screening and treatment services for pregnant women are an especially cost-effective opportunity to reduce stillbirths and neonatal deaths. In partnership with the movement to implement the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, the AIDS response must do more to enhance financing, strengthen policy and improve integrated services, including for HIV, hepatitis, the human papillomavirus and cervical cancer as well as emerging diseases such as Zika, for the most vulnerable women, adolescents and children. More attention needs to be paid to the needs of children orphaned by HIV and to those of their careers.

39. Ending the AIDS epidemic is only possible if all people living with and affected by HIV can access affordable, quality health products. Innovation is required to enable access to point-of-care diagnostics and affordable, optimized prevention tools, including women-initiated technologies, and medicines including second- and third-line antiretroviral therapy regimens and for tuberculosis and hepatitis B and C, as well as a vaccine and cure. Recognizing that countries of all income levels struggle to provide access to affordable, quality medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, I have convened a high-level panel on access to medicines. The panel is mandated to assess and recommend solutions for remedying the policy incoherence among the rights of inventors, international human rights law, trade rules and public health, and will deliver its final report in June 2016.

Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls (Sustainable Development Goal 5)

40. Gender inequality and HIV are inextricably linked, and efforts to address their intersections should be radically and systematically scaled up. Ensuring gender equality enables people to prevent HIV, improves access to health services, education and employment and paves a path towards lives free of violence. Laws,

policies and practices must uphold women's rights, including property and inheritance rights, protection against violence and freedom from discrimination in education and the workplace, and support access to services by women and girls in all their diversity, especially those from the most vulnerable communities.

41. Protecting and promoting women's sexual and reproductive rights, including their right to make independent decisions on sexual activity, marriage, divorce and childbearing, is central to enabling women to prevent HIV. Recent evidence demonstrates the significant impact of providing a combination of cash transfers, school feeding and psychosocial support on empowering both adolescent girls and boys to reduce high-risk behaviour, as well as the impact of cash transfers on reducing unprotected sex and intimate partner violence.[8]

42. Multifaceted approaches to address the linkages between human rights, gender equality and HIV that involve men, women, boys and girls and engage diverse stakeholders have the greatest impact. The integration of violence prevention and HIV programming within existing development platforms, such as savings-led microfinance, social protection and education, greatly facilitates scalability and sustainability. Engaging men in HIV prevention efforts, both as sexual partners as well as people with their own needs, is critically important. Challenging notions of traditional masculinity requires men to engage as gender advocates and to take responsibility for transforming social norms, behaviour and gender stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination and inequality. Men and boys face gender-related vulnerability as well, including sexual violence, which should be addressed through gender-sensitive HIV services.

43. Sexual violence often becomes more pronounced in humanitarian emergencies when traditional protection systems are weakened. It is critical to leverage women's participation in peacebuilding, reduce the vulnerability of women and girls in such settings and ensure access to clinical care, including psychosocial support and post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV transmission, for survivors of sexual assault.

44. Women and girls, including those living with HIV, must be empowered as leaders. Spaces need to be reserved for women's participation in key HIV-related agenda-setting platforms; investments must be made in organizations that advocate for gender equality; women's rights and empowerment should be scaled up; and grass-roots mobilizing and alliance-building with other social movements should be facilitated.

Reduce inequality in access to services and commodities (Sustainable Development Goal 10)

45. Progress in the response will increasingly rely on promoting the right of all people, including young people, women and key populations, to access comprehensive HIV services without discrimination. Ensuring equitable access for sex workers; men who have sex with men; people who inject drugs; transgender people; prisoners; migrants; people affected by emergencies; homeless people; and other people left behind requires the availability of effective and appropriate HIV and health services and commodities in an enabling social, legal and policy environment, as well as the meaningful engagement of those groups in the response.

[8] UNAIDS, "2016-2021 Strategy: On the Fast-Track to end AIDS" (Geneva, 2015).

46. To scale up effective and rights-based combination prevention programmes, decision-makers must utilize national and subnational epidemiologic, economic and social data to saturate high-transmission areas with a combination of interventions tailored to the needs of specific populations. Better focusing prevention programmes by population and location can increase prevention impact without increasing expenditure. That requires not only the allocation of resources to intensify programmes where they are needed most, but also a reduction in spending where programmes are needed less.

47. Country combination prevention frameworks need to be updated, the management and capacity of prevention programmes strengthened and adequate funding allocated. Dedicated capacity needs to be established for intersectoral coordination, monitoring and mentoring of local programmes to reach high coverage, strengthened procurement and supply chain of prevention products, and effective communication about prevention, including through new and digital media. UNAIDS estimates that one quarter of global HIV investments should be allocated to prevention other than antiretroviral therapy, with the specific proportion varying from country to country.

48. Numerous effective prevention methods are available and must be increasingly accessible. Male and female condom and lubricant programming is highly effective in preventing sexual transmission of HIV, other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. Voluntary medical male circumcision is providing significant protection for millions of young men in sub-Saharan Africa, reducing the risk of HIV transmission by up to 60 per cent.[9] Pre-exposure prophylaxis can be a game-changer for people at high risk of acquiring HIV. UNAIDS estimates that, annually, 20 billion condoms need to be made available in low- and middle- income countries, as well as pre-exposure prophylaxis for 3 million people, by 2020. For people living with HIV, early access to antiretroviral therapy and connection to quality care suppresses HIV viral load to a point where the risk of transmission is lowered by as much as 96 per cent. Comprehensive harm reduction services have proven to be highly effective in preventing HIV and other blood-borne diseases.

49. We must ensure that laws, policies and norms protect, rather than undermine, adolescents' and young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Age-of-consent laws must not prohibit young people from independently accessing comprehensive, youth-friendly HIV-related information and services. Comprehensive sexuality education is recognized as an appropriately age-sequenced, culturally relevant approach to teaching about sexuality and relationships by providing scientifically accurate, realistic, non-judgmental information, and has been demonstrated to contribute to reducing HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. In the light of continued inadequate levels of knowledge about HIV transmission among young people, such education remains critical. Young people are clear in their demand for more and better comprehensive sexuality education and HIV-related services, including psychosocial and adherence support.

50. Ensuring equal access to HIV services also depends on continuing to mobilize and engage people living with HIV and populations left behind as a force for transformation in governing, designing and implementing the response. Community-led networks and organizations (especially of people living with HIV,

[9] WHO, Fact sheet: Voluntary medical male circumcision for HIV prevention (July 2012).

women, young people and key populations) must be free to self-organize and empowered financially and politically to serve as advocates, accountability watchdogs and full partners.

Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies (Sustainable Development Goal 16)

51. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an unprecedented imperative and opportunity to expand rights-based HIV responses and strengthen links with human rights, social justice and rule-of-law movements. Existing legal obligations and political commitments for human rights and gender equality must be translated into concrete strategies, programmes and action. Leadership at all levels and across sectors must rise to the occasion — executive branches, members of parliament and the judiciary, and religious, community and health-care leaders are critical to advancing social justice.

52. Discriminatory and punitive laws, policies and practices that block access, particularly for people living with HIV, key populations, young people and people in humanitarian settings, must be immediately and irrevocably removed. Hate crimes and all violence perpetrated against key populations, including people of diverse sexual and gender orientations, must be ended.

53. Misuse of criminal law often negatively impacts health and violates human rights. Overly broad criminalization of HIV exposure, non-disclosure and transmission is contrary to internationally accepted public health recommendations and human rights principles. The criminalization of adult consensual sexual relations is a human rights violation, and legalization can reduce vulnerability to HIV infection and improve treatment access. Decriminalizing the possession and use of injecting drugs and developing laws and policies that allow comprehensive harm reduction services have been shown to reduce HIV transmission. Similarly, the decriminalization of sex work can reduce violence, harassment and HIV risk. Sex workers should enjoy human rights protections guaranteed to all individuals, including the rights to non-discrimination, health, security and safety.

54. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living with HIV face significant discrimination, as some States restrict the entry of or forcibly return people living with HIV. In a number of countries, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are subjected to mandatory HIV testing without counselling or guarantees of privacy. Providing voluntary HIV and sexual and reproductive health services to migrants and persons affected by humanitarian emergencies is firmly rooted in international humanitarian and human rights laws, policies and medical ethics.

55. Around the world, neglect and discrimination in all their forms place people with disabilities at risk of HIV infection. Common misperceptions affecting public health planning include the belief that people with disabilities are sexually inactive or unlikely to use drugs or alcohol. As a result, people with disabilities are often neglected in HIV policy planning as well as wider health-care provisioning. This gap must be addressed, including by improving disability data collection.

56. We must protect the right of all people to access justice and challenge human rights violations, such as discrimination and denial of services in all settings, including employment, health and education. Investments must be scaled up in human rights programmes that restore dignity and improve health outcomes such as law and policy reform, reduction of stigma and discrimination, reduction of gender

discrimination and inequalities, legal literacy, availability and accessibility of legal services and sensitization of lawmakers, law enforcement agents and health-care workers.

57. Human rights and ethics training for health-care providers must be scaled up, both to ensure that providers know their own rights to health and to empower providers with the skills and tools necessary to ensure that patients' rights to informed consent for all health services and to confidentiality and non-discrimination are upheld.

58. Efforts must be expanded to eliminate HIV-related workplace discrimination, applying relevant international labour standards, and to optimize workplace programmes to ensure that all employees have access to voluntary HIV testing and counselling, linkages to care and guarantees of continued employment. Ensuring healthy working environments requires stronger partnerships between networks of people living with HIV, private businesses and ministries responsible for labour, trade unions, employers and businesses.

Revitalize the partnership for sustainable development (Sustainable Development Goal 17)

59. The integrated and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals demands that all health and development efforts embrace innovative means of implementation, building on the principles of partnership, cross-sector collaboration and solidarity. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and issue-based coalitions, including those within the United Nations system, such as UNAIDS, that engage Governments, civil society, faith communities, the private sector, the scientific community, academia, foundations and local authorities will be critical to the achievement of progress across the Goals.

60. We cannot end the AIDS epidemic without increasing and front-loading diversified resources. The fast-track approach will require reaching a peak investment of $7.4 billion, $8.2 billion and $10.5 billion in low-, lower-middle- and upper-middle-income countries, respectively, by 2020 (see table 1). The implementation of a fully funded global AIDS response in all countries will avert 17.6 million new infections and 11 million premature deaths between 2016 and 2030 in low- and middle-income countries.

61. There is a perception that global solidarity for AIDS has reached its limits. That is far from true. Many countries have the ability to invest much more than they currently do. Among high-income countries, only four invest a share of the total international resources available for AIDS that exceeds those countries' proportion of world gross domestic product. As a matter of urgent concern, the international community must ensure that resource needs of $13 billion are mobilized for the fifth replenishment of the Global Fund. By leveraging advances in science and applying innovative solutions, the partnership is on track to reach, by the end of 2016, a total of 22 million lives saved since its establishment. A fully funded replenishment will save an additional 8 million lives by 2020, and deliver economic gains of up to $290 billion over the coming years.

Table 1
Annual fast-track resource needs of low- and middle-income countries by 2020, by income level[a]
(Billions of United States dollars)

	Resources available in 2014	*Target for 2020*[b]
Low-income countries[c]	**5.5**	**7.4**
Domestic public	0.2	0.9
International	4.7	6.5
Lower-middle-income countries[c]	**4.3**	**8.2**
Domestic public	0.7	3.7
International	2.6	4.5
Upper-middle-income countries[c]	**9.4**	**10.5**
Domestic public	7.6	10.0
International	1.4	0.5
Total resource needs in low and middle-income countries[c]	**19.2**	**26.2**
Domestic public	8.6	14.6
International	8.8	11.6

[a] Using World Bank 2015 investment lending classification, thus not including countries now classified as high income; the 2014 resource availability was adjusted for the countries remaining low or middle income from 2016 to 2020.
[b] Resource estimates for 2020 are produced for all low- and middle-income countries, using country-specific inputs or estimates for each country, and assume the reallocation of existing resources for more efficient responses according to location and population and the adoption of streamlined antiretroviral therapy care service modalities.
[c] Includes domestic private, mainly out-of-pocket expenditures.

62. Low- and middle-income countries will need to significantly increase domestic funding according to their capacity and burden of disease. Countries are encouraged to develop sustainability transition plans and compacts outlining domestic and international commitments in support of national costed plans with country-owned targets, as well as expand co-financing approaches. With international public funding for HIV slowing and the countries most severely affected lacking the capacity to increase fiscal space through traditional means, partnering with the private sector is also essential.

63. Efficiency gains will further help ensure fiscal space for AIDS. Most countries need to scale up quality health services, streamline care models according to the most recent antiretroviral therapy guidelines, reduce waste and inefficiency and reduce the costs of health products by, inter alia, expanding community service delivery and promoting competition among product suppliers. To drive down prices, countries need to fully leverage their negotiating potential, including pooling procurement and strategically designing tendering processes and other market shaping mechanisms. Partnerships among Governments, communities of people living with HIV and generic and originator pharmaceutical companies should be expanded. More efficient responses will also rely on: supporting countries to make use of trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) flexibilities; supporting countries in negotiating free trade agreements without TRIPS-plus provisions that

would limit access to affordable medicines; taking steps to preserve and strengthen local generic pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity; supporting the extension of a transition period on TRIPS obligations for pharmaceuticals for least-developed countries; and accelerating the entry of innovative products into the market, including by simplifying and strengthening health regulatory procedures.

64. Delivery of innovative products must be further encouraged through scaled-up investments in research and the development of more tolerable, efficacious and affordable health products, including: simpler, longer-lasting drug formulations for children, adolescents and adults; second- and third-line therapy; diagnostics; prevention technologies, including vaccines; and a cure.

65. Adopting newer prevention tools, diagnostics, treatment regimens and viral load tests with lower production costs will be key to achieving major savings. Technological transfer agreements, including but not limited to voluntary licensing agreements, between originator and generic companies should be pursued to increase the availability and affordability of medicines.

66. More efficient responses will rely on better use of implementation science to collect continuous and quality evidence on which approaches work best in particular contexts. That can be supported by practical country-level evaluations, as called for in General Assembly resolution 69/237.

67. People-centred systems for health will need to be strengthened by rolling out universal health coverage and social protection programmes for people living with HIV, women and girls, vulnerable families, caregivers and key populations. Countries will need to reinforce procurement and supply chain systems to prevent health product stock-outs, and human resources to deliver integrated health and HIV services. Integrated services should address co-infections and comorbidities such as hepatitis, as well as pain management, mental health and sexual and reproductive health, including sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer and care for survivors of sexual assault. Access to prevention, diagnosis and care of HIV associated tuberculosis should be increased through joint programming, patient-centred integration and co-location of HIV and tuberculosis services. As the number of people living with HIV who are 50 years or older grows, services will need to be integrated within care systems for other chronic progressive diseases, including non-communicable diseases.

IV. Towards more meaningful measures: From global to regional and national targets and enhanced monitoring for accountability to people

Global fast-track targets

68. In the first half of 2015, the Economic and Social Council, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and the UNAIDS and Lancet Commission, in its report on Defeating AIDS — Advancing Global Health, concluded that major acceleration and front-loading of investments and efforts were required to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Fast-track targets, based on modelling to identify the rate of progress necessary by 2020, were adopted by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board in October 2015 (see figure VI).

Figure VI
UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy fast-track targets for 2020

Target 1
Target 2
Zero new HIV infections among children, and mothers are alive and well
Target 3
Target 4
90% of women and men, especially young people and those in high-prevalence settings, have access to HIV combination prevention and sexual and reproductive health services
Target 5
27 million additional men in high-prevalence settings are voluntarily medically circumcised as part of integrated sexual and reproductive health services for men
Target 6
Target 7
Target 8
90% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV report no discrimination, especially in health, education and workplace settings
Target 9
Target 10
75% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, who are in need, benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection

69. To scale up and monitor collaboration across HIV and health issues, stakeholders are further encouraged to adopt medium-term targets on related health challenges on the journey towards 2030, such as the following:

- By 2020, reduce by 30 per cent new cases of chronic viral hepatitis B and C infections and reach 3 million people with hepatitis C virus treatment[10]
- By 2020, 70 per cent of countries have at least 95 per cent of pregnant women screened for syphilis; 95 per cent of pregnant women screened for HIV and 90 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV receiving effective treat nent[11]

[10] WHO, Draft global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis, 2016-2021 — the first of its kind (2015).
[11] WHO, Draft global health sector strategy on sexually transmitted infections, 2016-2021 (2015).

- By 2020, screen every woman living with HIV in care for cervical cancer[12]
- By 2020, expand access to family planning information, services and supplies to an additional 120 million women and girls in 69 priority countries[13]
- By 2020, reduce the number of tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 75 per cent[14]
- By 2025, achieve a 25 per cent relative reduction in the overall mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases[15]
- By 2025, reach 80 per cent availability of the affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics, required to treat major non-communicable diseases in both public and private facilities[16]

Regional fast-track targets

70. The different epidemic patterns across regions of the world provide the rationale and opportunity for regional approaches to fast-tracking the AIDS response. Regional leadership and engagement plays an increasingly critical role in development as an effective link between the global and national levels and as a source of political leadership, knowledge-sharing, technical and financial support, and peer-led accountability. To generate regional political commitment and accountability, I encourage all regions of the world to adopt fast-track targets for 2020 tailored to the epidemic settings of their regions. A table to encourage and support regional target-setting is contained in the annex (see annex, table 1).

[12] WHO, Guidelines for Screening and Treatment of Pre-Cancerous Lesions for Cervical Cancer Prevention (2013).

[13] Family Planning 2020 (a global partnership hosted by the United Nations Foundation and a core partner of the Secretary-General's movement for women and children's health, Every Woman Every Child).

[14] WHO, Draft global health sector strategy on HIV, 2016-2021 (2015).

[15] From the WHO Global monitoring framework on non-communicable diseases, which tracks implementation of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020 through monitoring and reporting on the attainment of the nine global targets for non-communicable diseases, by 2025, against a baseline in 2010.

[16] WHO Non-communicable Diseases Global Monitoring Framework.

Table 2
Towards regional targets for new HIV infections: adults (aged 15+)[17]

Region	*People acquiring HIV, 2010*		*2020 target: 75% reduction*
Total		**2 000 000**	**500 000**
Asia and the Pacific		**280 000**	**88 000**
	Women: 93 000	Men: 180 000	
Eastern Europe and Central Asia		**120 000**	**44 000**
	Women: 49 000	Men: 74 000	
Eastern and Southern Africa		**990 000**	**210 000**
	Women		
	15-24: 240 000		
	25+: 310 000	Men: 430 000	
Latin America and the Caribbean		**98 000**	**40 000**
	Women: 32 000	Men: 66 000	
Middle East and North Africa		**19 000**	**6 200**
	Women: 5 800	Men: 13 000	
Western and Central Africa		**360 000**	**67 000**
	Women		
	15-24: 80 000		
	25+: 130 000	Men: 160 000	
Western and Central Europe and North America		**86 000**	**53 000**
	Women: 18 000	Men: 68 000	

Impact estimates are done for 30+ countries with highest burden. Regional estimates of impact are extrapolated from modelled countries in that region to all countries in that region.

[17] Please note that the numbers in this and other tables in the present report represent the median in a range. For further information on the range, please contact UNAIDS.

Table 3
Towards regional targets for treatment coverage: adults (aged 15+)

Region	*People on treatment (% coverage), 2014*		*2020 target*
Total		**14 100 000**	**27 900 000**
Asia and the Pacific		**1 700 000**	**4 100 000**
	Women: 740 000 (43%)	Men: 980 000 (32%)	
Eastern Europe and Central Asia		**270 000**	**1 400 000**
	Women: 110 000 (19%)	Men: 150 000 (17%)	
Eastern and Southern Africa		**8 500 000**	**14 100 000**
	Women: 5 400 000 (52%)	Men: 3 100 000 (42%)	
Latin America and the Caribbean		**890 000**	**1 600 000**
	Women: 330 000 (49%)	Men: 560 000 (45%)	
Middle East and North Africa		**30 000**	**210 000**
	Women: 13 000 (18%)	Men: 17 000 (12%)	
Western and Central Africa		**1 500 000**	**4 500 000**
	Women: 1 100 000 (31%)	Men: 460 000 (19%)	
Western and Central Europe and North America		**[810 000-1 500 000]**	**2 000 000**
	Women: [180 000-330 000]	Men: [630 000-1 200 000]	

Table 4
Towards regional targets for new HIV infections and treatment coverage: children aged 0-15[18]

	Children acquiring HIV		*Children living with HIV on ART*	
Region	*2010*	*2020 target*	*2014*	*2020 target*
Total	**360 000**	**20 000**	**820 000**	**1 200 000**
Asia and the Pacific	26 000	2 000	73 000 (35%)	95 000
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	1 900	<500	14 000 (83%)	7 600
Eastern and Southern Africa	200 000	10 000	600 000 (38%)	690 000
Latin America and the Caribbean	4 900	<500	23 000 (54%)	17 000
Middle East and North Africa	2 300	<500	2 000 (15%)	8 000
Western and Central Africa	130 000	6 000	93 000 (13%)	340 000
Western and Central Europe and North America	<500	<500	[2 500-7 500]	1 300

[18] Targets for 2020 were derived from a 2016 update of the fast-track model, implementing coverage targets contained in the UNAIDS strategy, the most recent WHO guidelines and additional new evidence.

V. Embracing sustainable development solutions to fast-track an accelerated, rights-based AIDS response: Recommendations

71. Our commitment to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 demands that we collectively fast-track the response and embrace the opportunities inherent in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Accelerating shared progress that builds on solid achievements, tackles the poverty and inequality that blight our planet and ensures that no one is left behind requires joint action by countries, people living with and affected by HIV, civil society, development partners, the United Nations system, the private sector and other key partners.

72. To guide progress, countries are encouraged to embrace the fast-track goals for 2020 of reducing the numbers of people newly infected with HIV and people dying from AIDS-related causes, respectively, to fewer than 500,000 per year, as well as eliminating HIV-related discrimination. The upcoming high-level meeting on ending AIDS of the General Assembly provides a critical opportunity to set ambitious quantitative global targets in support of these goals, drawing on those proposed in the UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy. I urge countries to ensure high-level and diverse participation in the meeting. To encourage leadership and results at all levels, targets should subsequently be regionally disaggregated and inform country targets tailored to national circumstances.

73. To promote accountability, follow-up and review of progress towards fast-track goals and targets must be inclusive, participatory and transparent. I call on UNAIDS to provide continued leadership on regular country-led evaluation of progress and annual reporting on the AIDS response to inform the General Assembly and the high-level political forum. To complement reporting at the global level, regular regional peer-based reviews that engage health and non-health ministries, city/local leaders and civil society will be critical. Looking forward, Member States should consider a high-level meeting on AIDS and the Sustainable Development Goals in 2022 to review progress on the social, economic and political dimensions of fast-track AIDS responses, and on contributions to progress across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

74. The AIDS response remains a source of innovation and inspiration, demonstrating what is possible by uniting the power of science, community activism and political leadership. From the grassroots to the global level, the response has developed a machinery to address AIDS in all its dimensions. That machinery engages State and non-state actors, works across sectors, and tackles social drivers and human rights abuses. It is unique to global health and must be better utilized as we rise to meet the challenges presented by repeated disease outbreaks and new epidemics of chronic diseases, while building towards equitable universal health coverage. I further encourage the international community to consider and recognize the value of a comprehensive framework convention on global health.

75. Continued progress in the AIDS response inspires faith that the Sustainable Development Goals are within reach. By leveraging momentum and pursuing the synergies between the AIDS response and the 2030 Agenda, we can end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 as well as accelerate progress across a range of the Goals in a virtuous cycle. As we endeavour towards these aims, I encourage Member States and all stakeholders to urgently implement the following recommendations:

(a) **Front-load investments reaching $7.4 billion, $8.2 billion and $10.5 billion for the AIDS response in low-income, lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income countries respectively in 2020, including through a successful fifth replenishment of the Global Fund**, guided by financial sustainability compacts that outline predictable domestic, international and private commitments in support of national costed plans;

(b) **Reach the "90-90-90" testing and treatment target in all countries and among all populations** — ensuring that 28 million adults and 1.2 million children living with HIV are on treatment by 2020;

(c) **Eliminate new HIV infections among children and keep mothers healthy**, reaching fewer than 20,000 new HIV infections among children by 2020, by integrating HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, ensuring that antiretroviral treatment is accessible to all pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV and engaging male partners in HIV prevention while strengthening links to holistic and adaptable child development efforts;

(d) **Scale up and adequately resource HIV combination prevention programmes that include access to condoms, pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary male medical circumcision, harm reduction and comprehensive sexuality education, tailored to populations, locations and interventions for maximum impact**, ensuring that at least one quarter of AIDS resources are allocated to prevention depending on the country context, with particular attention to engaging adolescent and young women, sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people and prisoners, as well as migrants, people with disabilities and emergency- and conflict-affected populations, and realize the sexual and reproductive health and rights of everyone;

(e) **Reduce the number of young women newly infected with HIV each year to 100,000 by 2020, by advancing gender equality, ending gender-based violence and empowering women and girls**, including by working to eliminate discriminatory laws and gender norms that perpetuate the unequal status of women and girls, and by implementing strategies that promote an enabling environment for the social, political and economic empowerment of women, including through the engagement of boys and men;

(f) **Leave no one behind and ensure access to services by removing punitive laws, policies and practices that violate human rights**, including the criminalization of same-sex sexual relations, gender and sexual orientation diversity, drug use and sex work, the broad criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, exposure and transmission, HIV-related travel restrictions and mandatory testing, age of consent laws that restrict adolescents' right to health care and all forms violence against key populations;

(g) **Invest in community-led service delivery, human resources for health and universal health coverage to strengthen people-centred service delivery**, including by integrating services for HIV, tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health, cervical cancer and other non-communicable diseases, hepatitis, drug use disorders and food and nutrition support, in order to meet the lifetime health-care needs of people in ways that are acceptable to them;

(h) **Scale up financing to address the social and structural drivers of HIV that have multiple development outcomes**, including education, non-discriminatory

and HIV-sensitive social protection and promotion of human rights, and use the apparatus of the AIDS response to address other health-security and humanitarian emergencies;

(i) **Ramp up investments in the advocacy and leadership role of people living with and affected by HIV, young people, women and of civil society** to legitimately represent the interests of all fragile communities, and drive ambition, financing and equity in the AIDS response, as part of a broader effort to ensure that up to 6 per cent of all global AIDS resources are allocated for social enablers, including advocacy, political mobilization, law and policy reform, public communication and stigma reduction;

(j) **Boldly pursue new scientific solutions and expand investment in research and development for improved diagnostics, easier and more tolerable treatment regimens, therapeutic vaccines and other prevention technologies as well as a functional cure** and ensure affordability by aligning trade rules and public health objectives under a human rights framework;

(k) **Ensure that the United Nations is able to deliver results on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by reinforcing and expanding the unique multisector, multi-stakeholder approach of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** to strategic coherence, coordination, a results-based focus and inclusive governance in the AIDS response for country-level impact on health, human rights and sustainable development.

Annex

Table 1
Ten targets for 2015: progress and remaining challenges

Progress achieved	*Factors contributing to progress*	*Persistent challenges*
Reach 15 million people living with HIV with antiretroviral therapy		
Target achieved. Antiretroviral therapy accessed by 15.8 million people by June 2015.	Expansion of HIV testing, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.	Stigma and discrimination undermine efforts.
	Increased access to affordable medicines and diagnostics. Simplified, standardized and well-tolerated treatment regimens (with global and national guidelines).	Nearly half of people living with HIV do not know their HIV status, and nearly 60 per cent are not accessing antiretroviral therapy. Disproportionately low antiretroviral therapy access among children compared to adults
	Innovative service delivery, such as community-based service delivery and adherence clubs.	Many people start treatment late, and a substantial proportion struggle to overcome social and structural barriers to remain in care. Only a minority of people living with HIV achieve viral suppression.
Close the global AIDS resource gap by 2015 and reach annual global investment of $22 billion to $24 billion in low- and middle-income countries		
Target largely achieved. An estimated $21.7 billion was available for HIV programmes in low- and middle-income countries in 2015.	Domestic HIV investment nearly tripled from 2006 to 2014, with domestic sources accounting for 57 per cent of all resources in 2014.	Most countries have yet to mobilize domestic resources commensurate with national wealth and burden of HIV.
	International HIV assistance rose from $7.9 billion in 2010 to $8.8 billion in 2014.	Several high-income countries' HIV assistance is below their share of the global economy.
	Efficiency gains have enhanced the impact of finite HIV funding.	Allocative and programmatic efficiency are suboptimal, including limited resources focused on populations with the highest burden of disease.
Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2015 and substantially reduce AIDS-related maternal deaths		
Substantial progress. 220,000 children acquired HIV in 2014 — 45 per cent fewer than in 2009. Since 2010, the number of women aged 15-49 dying from AIDS-related causes declined by 35 per cent.	Greater provision of more efficacious antiretroviral drugs to pregnant women living with HIV, including increased coverage of treatment among women living with HIV before they became pregnant and policy change in	Primary prevention for women of reproductive age and access to family planning inadequate. Weak implementation of 4 antenatal care visits and 13 interventions, as recommended by WHO.

Progress achieved	*Factors contributing to progress*	*Persistent challenges*
	many countries to maintain pregnant women on lifelong antiretroviral therapy. The proportion of children living with HIV who receive antiretroviral therapy more than doubled, from 14 per cent in 2010 to 32 per cent in 2014.	Low early infant diagnosis impedes access to antiretroviral therapy for children living with HIV, while lack of care and support undermines adherence. In 2014, only 49 per cent of HIV-exposed children in 21 priority countries in Africa received diagnostic screening within the first two months of life.
Eliminate HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence		
Important gains. 14 countries either repealed restrictions or officially clarified that their national travel policies do not discriminate on the basis of HIV status, reducing the number of countries with such restrictions to 35.	Corporate leaders promoted the business case for non-discrimination, citing their need to send well-qualified employees overseas without regard to their HIV status.	Discriminatory laws and policies continue to restrict the movement of people living with HIV and result in substantial harm and denial of HIV services. They reinforce unfounded beliefs that migrants increase HIV-related risks for host communities and hamper solidarity and compassion.
Reduce tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 50 per cent by 2015		
Important gains. The number of people dying from HIV-associated tuberculosis fell from 570,000 in 2004 to 390,000 in 2014. However, the reduction in tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV in 2014 was just 18 per cent lower than in 2010.	In 2014, approximately 7 million people enrolled in HIV care within reporting countries were screened for tuberculosis, up from 2.3 million in 2010. The proportion of tuberculosis patients aware of their HIV status rose from 33 per cent to 51 per cent, and coverage of antiretroviral therapy rose from a few thousand in 2004 to 392,000 in 2014. The number of people living with HIV receiving isoniazid preventive therapy to treat tuberculosis infection reached 933,000 in 2014, an increase of ~60 per cent since 2013.	Tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, accounting for one third of all AIDS-related deaths in 2014. Coverage of essential prevention, diagnosis and treatment tools remains suboptimal. Only one in three people living with HIV and who had contracted tuberculosis in 2014 received antiretroviral therapy. Separate tuberculosis and HIV planning and programming continue to hamper access to integrated services and a continuum of care. Emergence of multidrug-resistant strains of tuberculosis in some countries.

Progress achieved	*Factors contributing to progress*	*Persistent challenges*
Eliminate parallel systems for HIV-related services to strengthen integration of the AIDS response in global health and development efforts as well as to strengthen social protection systems		
Important gains. More than 90 per cent of countries reporting at the end of 2014 stated that HIV had been mainstreamed into broader development frameworks, and 70 per cent were on track to achieve national integration commitments.	Integration between HIV counselling and testing and tuberculosis services in 90 per cent of reporting countries, with more than half reporting joint HIV and tuberculosis screening and treatment services. Two thirds of countries reported facility-level integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health services; 33 countries reported integration of HIV and non-communicable disease counselling and testing services. HIV integrated into comprehensive services for people who use drugs.	The holistic needs of key populations and young people remain insufficiently addressed.
Eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence and increase the capacity of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV		
Some progress. National policy frameworks increasingly recognize the centrality of gender issues to the AIDS response. However, persistent gender inequalities and gender-based violence place women and girls at higher risk.	More countries have removed policies that discriminate against women and implemented measures to address gender-based violence. Significant gains have been made in girls' school enrolment, and women's participation in the labour force has risen in some regions.	Many women and girls are unable to negotiate safer sex. Continuing absence of women-initiated prevention methods. Globally, 35 per cent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence, which is linked with women's increased vulnerability to HIV. Girls and young women continue to confront considerable impediments to education. In sub-Saharan Africa, men are less likely to seek an HIV test, less likely to enrol in HIV treatment and more likely to interrupt treatment. Harmful use of alcohol contributes to gender-based violence.
Eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV through promotion of laws and policies that ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms		
Some progress. There is a general decline in discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV. However, in about 40 per cent of	Legal and rights literacy programmes and legal services are effective in empowering people and protecting their rights.	Punitive legal and policy frameworks continue to hold back the response. 30 per cent of countries report having laws,

Progress achieved	*Factors contributing to progress*	*Persistent challenges*
countries where surveys have been conducted, more than half of adults reported discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV.	Among 74 countries in 2014, 64 per cent reported laws in place prohibiting discrimination against people living with HIV. Anti-discrimination measures for sex workers, migrants, women, prisoners and young people have increased. From 2006 to 2015, the number of countries criminalizing same-sex sexual acts fell from 92 to 75.	regulations or policies that impede effective HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers and transgender people. Overly broad criminalization of HIV transmission exists in 61 countries.
Reduce sexual transmission of HIV by 50 per cent by 2015		
Slow progress. From 2010 to 2014, the annual number of people (aged 15+) newly infected worldwide fell by just 8 per cent.	Modest scale-up in effective prevention programmes for young people and key populations. Voluntary medical male circumcision performed on more than 10 million men in sub-Saharan Africa by end of 2015. Increasing antiretroviral therapy coverage contributes to reducing onward transmission. Antiretroviral drugs as pre-exposure prophylaxis have been shown to be an effective prevention tool. Social protection reduces adolescent risk behaviour fivefold.	Evidence-informed and rights-based combination prevention frameworks remain inadequately implemented and are rarely brought to scale. Efforts to promote safer behaviours have struggled, condom promotion remains inadequate and barriers to key populations' access to services persist. Prevention investments have stagnated or declined.
Reduce transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent by 2015		
Mixed progress. HIV infections among people who inject drugs has not declined since 2010. While some countries have seen a reduction, others have seen an increase.	Modest global increase in coverage for some harm reduction components, such as syringes and needles distributed for each person who injects drugs.	Coverage of highly effective harm reduction programmes remains insufficient. In 2014, 79 of 192 reporting countries provided opioid substitution therapy, and 55 offered needle and syringe programmes. Marginalization and criminalization of people who inject drugs hamper access to HIV services. Gender-based stigma and discrimination often act as an additional barrier for women who inject drugs.

Source: UNAIDS, "Ten targets: 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: global progress and lessons learned, 2011-2015".

Table 2
Epidemics by region: countries that account for 90 per cent of people acquiring HIV in each region, 2014

	Number of new HIV infections, 2014
Asia and the Pacific	**290 000 (210 000-410 000)**
India	89 000
Indonesia	69 000
China	...
Pakistan	20 000
Viet Nam	15 000
Myanmar	8 700
Caribbean	**13 000 (9 600-17 000)**
Haiti	6 800
Dominican Republic	2 400
Cuba	2 100
Jamaica	1 500
Eastern Europe and central Asia	**140 000 (110 000-160 000)**
Russian Federation	110 000
Ukraine	...
Latin America	**87 000 (70 000-100 000)**
Brazil	...
Mexico	7 500
Colombia	6 500
Argentina	6 400
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5 500
Guatemala	2 900
Chile	2 400
Peru	2 300
Paraguay	1 900
Middle East and North Africa	**22 000 (13 000-33 000)**
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	7 400
Sudan	5 200
Somalia	3 300
Morocco	2 000
Egypt	1 200
Algeria	1 000
Western and Central Africa	**420 000 (380 000-460 000)**
Nigeria	230 000
Cameroon	48 000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	29 000
Côte d'Ivoire	25 000

	Number of new HIV infections, 2014
Chad	14 000
Mali	12 000
Ghana	11 000
Central African Republic	8 200
Guinea	7 200
Eastern and Southern Africa	**940 000 (860 000-1 000 000)**
South Africa	340 000
Uganda	100 000
Mozambique	88 000
Zimbabwe	64 000
United Republic of Tanzania	62 000
Kenya	56 000
Zambia	56 000
Malawi	42 000
Angola	26 000
Ethiopia	...
Western and Central Europe and North America	**85 000 (48 000-130 000)**
United States of America	...
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	...
France	...
Italy	...
Germany	...
Spain	...
Canada	...
Portugal	...
Turkey	...
Belgium	...
Greece	...

United Nations A/70/811/Corr.1

General Assembly

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2 May 2016

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 11
Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS

On the fast track to ending the AIDS epidemic

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

1. Page 3, footnote 2

Delete the second sentence.

2. Paragraph 14

The third sentence *should read*

In just five years, new paediatric infections have been halved in the countries with 90 per cent of the global number of pregnant women living with HIV.

3. Paragraph 22

Replace the indicator for footnote 2 with a new indicator and insert a new footnote *reading*

UNAIDS, *How AIDS changed everything: MDG 6: 15 years, 15 lessons of hope from the AIDS response* (see footnote 2). Also note that the latest figures from Public Health England estimate that 75 per cent of all people living with HIV (both diagnosed and undiagnosed) were treated and 70 per cent had an undetectable viral load in 2014 in the United Kingdom.

16-07131 (E) 040516

Please recycle

4. Figure V

Replace figure V with the figure below.

5. Paragraph 70

For the final two sentences *substitute*

To generate regional political commitment and accountability, I encourage all regions of the world to adopt fast-track targets for 2020 tailored to the epidemic settings of their regions (see tables 2, 3 and 4).

United Nations A/70/812–S/2016/309

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda items 35 and 40

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement dated 3 April 2016 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the recent large-scale military provocations by the armed forces of Armenia on the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

In its latest provocation, Armenia deliberately both attacked the civilian population in a densely populated area in the territories adjacent to the front line and opened intensive heavy weapons fire at the positions of Azerbaijan's armed forces. Moreover, Armenia has deployed additional missile and artillery units in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In addition, Armenia has conducted intensive military helicopter shuttle flights between its own territory and the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The continuous occupation of a large part of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia remains the main obstacle in the settlement of the conflict and the only source of the escalation of the situation on the front line and the occurrence of hostilities and casualties.

The international community, in particular the United Nations, should demand that Armenia, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally all its occupying forces from all occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Please recycle

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

On 2 April 2016, Armenia, targeting civilians in a densely populated area in the territories adjacent to the front line, opened intensive heavy weapons fire at the positions of Azerbaijan's armed forces along the line of contact. As a result of the artillery attacks of Armenian armed forces, a number of civilians were killed or seriously wounded. Substantial damages were also inflicted upon the private and public properties.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan have taken the necessary countermeasures within its internationally recognized borders to ensure the safety of the civilian population, to stop the provocations of Armenia and to deter it from further acts of aggression. Currently, the situation remains tense. Shelling of Azerbaijan's positions along the line of contact with heavy weapons, including with artillery, continues.

Armenia, in an attempt to reinforce its heavy artillery in the occupied territories, has deployed additional rocket and artillery forces and its military helicopters have conducted intensive shuttle flights between the occupied territories and Armenia.

Over the past years, such violations and armed provocations of Armenia as attacking and killing Azerbaijani military personnel as well as civilians with the use of mortars and large-calibre machine guns and artillery, have become more frequent and violent.

Armenia's desperate attempts to blame Azerbaijan for the escalation of the situation on the front line are aimed at misleading its own people and the wider international community.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that the illegal presence of Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains the main cause for the escalation of the situation and continues to pose a threat to peace and stability in the region. Armenia, through consistent provocations and escalation of the situation, the strengthening of its military build-up in the occupied territories, illegally changing the demographic, cultural and physical character of the seized lands and engaging in unlawful economic and other activities, including the transfer of Armenian populations into these territories, is pursuing an apparent goal of the annexation of Azerbaijan's territories and the consolidation of the status quo, which is unacceptable and unsustainable, as also stated by the Heads of State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs. It is Armenia that also blocks all initiatives of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, including the recent proposals of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, to derail the negotiation process. It once again proves that the Yerevan officials are not genuinely interested in seeking a political settlement of the armed conflict.

The fundamental basis for the settlement of the conflict is set out in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) and General Assembly resolution 62/243, which condemn the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the United Nations reaffirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The military occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan does not represent a solution and will never produce a political outcome desired by Armenia. The sooner Armenia reconciles with this reality, the sooner the conflict will be resolved and the countries and peoples in the region will benefit from the prospects of cooperation and economic development.

Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to demand that Armenia cease the illegal occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, withdraw its troops from all seized lands and engage constructively in the conflict settlement process in accordance with the requirements of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the norms and principles of international law.

United Nations A/70/813–S/2016/314

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 120
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, John Key, addressed to you, advising that the Government of New Zealand nominates Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations kindly asks that you circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerard **van Bohemen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-05934 (E) 120416

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Identical letters dated 4 April 2016 from the Prime Minister of New Zealand addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

For the past seventy years, the United Nations has been at the heart of our efforts to build a better world.

Today, the United Nations and the world are facing serious challenges. That is why we need a pragmatic and effective United Nations leader. It is time to elect the best person for the role of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I am therefore honoured to nominate New Zealander Helen Clark.

Helen Clark is a stateswoman of international stature: she has a proved lifelong commitment to the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and deep experience in and support for the United Nations as an institution.

Helen Clark has the right mix of political, diplomatic, managerial and modern communication skills which are required for this role:

- One of New Zealand's longest-serving Prime Ministers, Helen Clark was elected for three consecutive terms, from 1999 to 2008. She led the country for nine years and was at the forefront of New Zealand's constructive, fair and independent foreign policy.
- Since 2009, Helen Clark has served in the third-highest position within the United Nations, leading the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), coordinating the development activities of the United Nations system and taking the hard decisions necessary for making the United Nations more effective.

As a New Zealander, Helen Clark is well placed to bridge divisions and get results. I invite you to find out more about Ms. Clark at www.mfat.govt.nz/helen. Her biography is attached (see enclosure).

Helen Clark offers her total dedication to building a stronger United Nations. The Government of New Zealand presents Ms. Clark as the best candidate for this job.

(*Signed*) John Key
Prime Minister

Enclosure

Biography of Helen Clark

Helen Clark has served as Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Her support for putting into practice the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations is the constant in a long and distinguished career.

Helen grew up on a farm in the Waikato, a region with a strong iwi (indigenous tribe), in New Zealand's North Island. Her father was a farmer and her mother a teacher, and they instilled in Helen a commitment to a close relationship with her family, strong values and a strong work ethic. As the eldest of four girls, Helen helped on the farm, where there were never girls' jobs or boys' jobs, just work to do.

As a student at the University of Auckland, she proved herself a top intellect, achieving a Master of Arts in political studies with first-class honours. Helen joined the movements for social justice sweeping New Zealand and the world, including the anti-apartheid movement. Nelson Mandela remains a personal hero. It was during her time at the University of Auckland that Helen met and married Peter Davis (now Professor Davis).

In 1981, at the age of 31 and after eight years as an academic, Helen was elected a member of the Parliament of New Zealand, serving the people of Mount Albert, a multi-ethnic inner-city suburb of Auckland. Early on in her parliamentary career, Helen served as Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence Select Committee and the Disarmament Committee. In the period from 1987 to 1990, Helen held senior government positions, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Housing, Labour and Conservation.

For nine years, through three successive terms extending over the period from 1999 to 2008, Helen served as Prime Minister of New Zealand, running a diverse country in the Pacific. She was at the forefront of New Zealand's constructive, fair and independent foreign policy. Helen oversaw the negotiation of New Zealand's bilateral Free Trade Agreement with China, which was China's first such agreement with a member nation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. She authorized major contributions to conflict resolution in Timor-Leste, Bougainville and Solomon Islands, as well as in Afghanistan in the aftermath of 11 September 2001.

Helen has always been a champion of diversity and of the empowerment of women. She was the first woman to be elected Prime Minister and her Cabinet was inclusive of women and Maori (the indigenous people of New Zealand). She oversaw major progress in the reconciliation process with Maori (making up 15 per cent of the population) as well as apologies to Chinese New Zealanders and Samoa for historical state actions. Her government prioritized the retention of New Zealand's indigenous Maori language, and on her watch, New Zealand was among the first countries in the world to adopt sign language as an official language. Her government also prioritized and succeeded in achieving high levels of employment based on inclusive economic growth.

In 2009, Helen relinquished her seat in the New Zealand Parliament when she was appointed Administrator of UNDP. She is also the Chair of the United Nations Development Group, a committee comprising the heads of all United Nations entities working on development issues. She has taken the hard decisions necessary to make UNDP more effective, and was reappointed unanimously by the General Assembly in 2013. Under Helen's leadership, UNDP topped the Global Campaign for Aid Transparency 2014 index of major worldwide aid institutions.

United Nations A/70/814

General Assembly

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6 April 2016

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 72
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the attention given in Uzbekistan to the development of young people, who are a decisive force of our today and tomorrow (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72.

(*Signed*) Ildar **Shigabutdinov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

16-05531 (E) 150416 180416

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Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Efforts in Uzbekistan to promote the development of young people — a decisive force for our today and our tomorrow

Ever since Uzbekistan became independent, the policy of radical reforms pursued under the leadership of our Head of State with the aim of building a prosperous democratic State and society has had a clear social orientation.

Today, young people account for more than 60 per cent of the population of Uzbekistan. Therefore, a key priority of all the positive reforms in the country is to raise a harmoniously developed generation of young people who are physically healthy, spiritually mature and intellectually rich, and who possess not only wide-ranging knowledge and the skills that are in demand in the modern world, but also the ability to think independently and creatively.

The country's Constitution provides a firm legal foundation in this regard. An important step in this connection was the adoption on 20 November 1991 of the Act on the Foundations of State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan, which raised the issue of the younger generation to the national policy level.

Mention should also be made of the national professional training programme, which, according to international experts, has no precedent of such significance and scale anywhere in the world.

The Presidential Decision of 6 February 2014 on additional measures to implement the State youth policy in Uzbekistan was the logical continuation of the gradual reforms implemented since independence and marked the beginning of a new stage of activity.

In addition, a special State programme is developed in Uzbekistan every year, setting out the social direction for that year. For example, 2008 was proclaimed the Year of Youth, 2010 was proclaimed the Year of the Harmoniously Developed Generation, 2014 was the Year of the Healthy Child and 2016 is the Year of the Healthy Mother and Child. This demonstrates the huge efforts being made to create a bright future for the younger generation. The fact that a total of 7,483.3 billion sum and 194.4 million dollars has been allocated for the implementation of the State programme known as the Year of the Healthy Mother and Child is indicative of the scale and depth of the work being done in Uzbekistan.

The national models created in our country for continuing education and for the raising of a harmoniously developed younger generation have also been widely recognized throughout the world. For all stages of education, State educational standards, academic curricula and textbooks that are appropriate to current demands have been developed and put into use, drawing on experience from around the world. Advanced teaching technologies and interactive methods of education are widely used.

Since independence, new types of education institutions have been established that are without precedent in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent

States: vocational colleges and academic high schools. As a result, a unique holistic system of continuous learning and academic and industrial education has been established with the aim of producing highly qualified and competitive professionals for all sectors of the economy and society and ensuring the spiritual and moral education and all-round creative development of young people.

Thousands of new jobs are created in the country every year, some of them through the development of the small business and private enterprise sector, which is attracting increasing numbers of young people. Over the past year, 990,400 jobs have been created in Uzbekistan — more than the 987,500 forecast — and over 90 per cent of young experts have found employment. Steps have been taken to provide jobs for more than 230,000 young women who graduated from vocational colleges in 2015; loans amounting to more than 51 billion sum have been allocated to over 6,000 of them who want to start their own business. All of this helps to address the issue of employment for young people and for the population as a whole, which is very important to us.

The expanding social partnership between the State authorities and civil society, including the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Kamolot youth movement, the Makhalla and Soglom Avlod Uchun non-governmental charitable foundations and the Istedod Presidential Foundation, is also contributing to the positive impact of work in this area.

A large-scale effort to develop children's sport is helping to raise a younger generation that is physically healthy and spiritually mature. In 2005, 30 per cent of children and adolescents aged 6 to 15 in Uzbekistan took part in sport (the figure for rural areas was 29 per cent), whereas in 2015 the figures stood at 57.2 per cent and 56 per cent respectively.

Practical efforts to attract girls to popular sports have achieved impressive results. In 2005, 24 per cent of them took part in such sports, while in rural areas the figure was 22 per cent. It is gratifying that today 47 per cent of girls regularly take part in sport; in rural areas the figure is 44.7 per cent.

As a result of developments in this area and the promotion of a healthy way of life, Uzbek athletes are achieving great success in the international arena. In the 2015 sports season, our compatriots won 311 gold, 274 silver and 276 bronze medals at Olympic and national sports competitions. This is another practical confirmation of the effectiveness of the State's carefully considered youth policy and of the fact that the talent and expertise of our young men and women are second to none.

The country's leadership is also paying great attention to supporting young families. In accordance with the Presidential Decree of 18 May 2007 on additional measures for the material and moral support of young families, such families are provided with long-term mortgage loans at preferential rates.

As part of efforts to improve their housing and living conditions, a Cabinet of Ministers decision was also adopted on 8 September 2014 on measures for further support in the provision of housing for young families who are actively contributing to society. The decision provides for the construction of apartment blocks and the conversion of existing unused and unfinished buildings throughout the country into Kamolot apartment blocks for young families.

Over the past two years, 57 Kamolot multistorey blocks housing 2,080 apartments have been built and allocated to young families, and thousands of young men and women have been provided with mortgage loans and consumer credit at preferential rates. Such practices are becoming more widespread.

In general, this kind of comprehensive and multidimensional support is provided to all young people in Uzbekistan. As President Islam Karimov has repeatedly stated, "Young people are not only our hope and our future; young people are a decisive force for our today and our tomorrow."

United Nations A/70/815–S/2016/318

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda items 35, 40, 68 and 72

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I draw your attention to Armenia's further violation of international humanitarian law against the civilian population of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Over the last days, along with intensive heavy weapons fire at the positions of Azerbaijan's armed forces, Armenian armed forces have deliberately targeted the civilian population residing in the densely populated territories adjacent to the front line. Such reckless actions and provocations by Armenian armed forces have resulted in a large number of casualties, including among the civilian population. Substantial damage was inflicted on private and public property, including critical civilian infrastructure.

Armenia's actions constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto.

Information on further violations of international humanitarian law by Armenia in the context of intensification of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan since 2 April 2016 is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 40, 68 and 72, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information on further violations of international humanitarian law by Armenia in the context of intensification of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan since 2 April 2016

For more than two decades, Armenia has been using force against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. It occupied 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territories and ethnically cleansed about 1 million Azerbaijanis from those areas. Armenia openly disregards Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), in which the Council reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from Azerbaijani territories. During the period 1992-1994, Armenia committed numerous war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Starting from the early morning of 2 April 2016, Armenia has intensified its military activity in the conflict area, which has been accompanied by numerous acts of violation of international humanitarian law tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Armenia is conducting systematic, deliberate and targeted attacks on the non-combatant civilian population encompassing, inter alia, women and the elderly residing in the densely populated areas adjacent to the line of contact between the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan. As a result of the attacks, 6 civilians, among them 2 children below 16 years, were killed and 24 civilians seriously wounded. Substantial damage was inflicted on private and public property, including civilian critical infrastructure. A total of 206 private houses, 69 electricity poles, two electrical substations and kilometres of water and gas pipelines were destroyed. Guided missile attacks were directed at social facilities, including schools, hospitals and places of worship. Instruction had to be suspended in the 28 damaged schools. One mosque was hit during prayer with high-calibre artillery shells (compiled information on the attacks is set out in the table below).

Armenia's actions represent a grave violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, as well as the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. As a result of those deliberate attacks, a large number of civilians have been deprived of their basic rights to life, health, property, education, communication and practicing their religion.

Azerbaijan has taken appropriate measures to counter Armenia's use of force against its territorial integrity and sovereignty and to ensure the safety of the civilian population and property within its internationally recognized borders.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that the primary reason for the tension in the region is the unlawful presence of the armed forces of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The recent actions of the military dictatorship of Armenia, which is led by a group of war criminals, represent a serious challenge to international peace and security and the values for which the civilized world stands. The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to condemn Armenia for its blatant violation of international humanitarian law. Azerbaijan will spare no efforts to ensure peace and justice in the region.

Information on the consequences of the armed attacks by Armenia against civilian population and infrastructure of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2 April 2016

(Updated on 5 April 2016)

No.	Description	Area					Total
		Aghdam	Tartar	Goranboy	Fuzuli	Aghjabadi	
1.	Bombarded settlements	16	9	3	1	3	32
2.	Killed civilians	1	3	–	–	–	6
3.	Wounded and injured civilians	9	4	8	1	2	24
4.	Damaged buildings, including:	42	160	38	–	–	271
	– Private residential houses, of which:	18	157	31	–	–	206
	– Completely destroyed houses	–	17	20	–	–	37
	– Burned houses	7	–	–	–	–	7
	– Non-residential buildings	1 building belonging to a business and 1 public building	–	2 buildings belonging to businesses	–	–	4, including: – 3 buildings belonging to businesses – 1 public building
	– Schools	2	8	20	–	–	30
	– Mosque	1	–	–	–	–	1
	– Other types of buildings	22	3	5	–	–	30
5.	Perished cattle	83	28	60	–	–	171
6.	Affected sown areas (hectares)	–	236	–	–	–	236
7.	Destroyed civilian critical infrastructure, including:						74
	– Electricity supply infrastructure	30 electricity poles	39 electricity poles, 2 power substations	–	–	–	69 electricity poles, 2 power substations
	– Water supply infrastructure	–	2 reservoirs	–	–	–	2 reservoirs
	– Gas supply infrastructure	–	2 km pipeline	–	–	–	2 km pipeline

A/70/815
S/2016/318